

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR**

For the Year 1949

---

**R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.,**  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

**R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.,**  
*Sanitary Inspector.*



BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF

**THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**THE SANITARY INSPECTOR**

For the Year 1949

---

R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

# Boldon Urban District Council, 1949.

---

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR W. T. WILSON, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH.

COUN. T. BROWN.

„ J. CORNTHWAITE.

„ T. P. EDWARDS.

„ R. FARROW.

„ R. McDARMONT.

COUN. MRS. M. A. SIMPSON.

„ F. H. THUBRON.

„ J. TRACEY.

„ W. TROUPE.

„ J. WHITE.

(until 28th Feb.).

COUN. J. WINTER (from 25th May).

*Chairman of the Health Committee :*

COUNCILLOR J. CORNTHWAITE, J.P.

(until 2nd Oct., 1949).

---

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

### Officials.

*Medical Officer of Health :* R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,  
D.P.H., F.R.J.P.H.

*Deputy* „ „ „ ANDREW FORBES, M.B.,  
Ch.B. (until 30th June).

*Sanitary Inspector :* R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.R.S.I.,  
A.M.I.S.E.

*Clerk to the Health Department :* MISS H. MILLAR.



## BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Boldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY and GENTLEMEN,

I hereby present my Ninth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district, together with the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. W. Armstrong.

1949 has seen changes regarding the Isolation Hospital and the control of Infectious Diseases. Our Hospital which had been an Institution for the treatment of Tuberculosis cases for some years, was finally taken over, in February of this year, by the Hospital Management Committee. From the latter date, I carried on with the administration of the Hospital and the treatment of the patients, until the end of September.

I am happy to state that compared with other districts, we have escaped any serious epidemic. In April, the local doctors were advised of the possibility of the spread of Asiatic Smallpox ; we escaped any such visitation. In May, contacts of Smallpox were visited and supervised, again no infection occurred.

Two cases of Paratyphoid were notified in the area and a further case was diagnosed as such after admittance into hospital. Two 'carriers' from Boldon Colliery were confined to Hospital until they proved negative for the spread of the disease. An Epidemiologist, from the Ministry of Health, worked with us to isolate those with the disease, the contacts, and to supervise those who were employed in a bakery where one of the bakers was found to be a 'carrier.'

During the year, there was one case of Food Poisoning notified, however, this was not confirmed.

Several visits were paid to the Piggery at "Redhill," Whitburn, because of a nuisance. Legal action has been taken in this case which is not yet concluded.

During August of this year, the Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board set aside beds for the nursing of Acute Poliomyelitis cases at the following hospitals :—

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.  
Lanchester Infectious Diseases Hospital, Lanchester  
West Lane Infectious Diseases Hospital,  
Middlesbrough.  
Carlisle Infectious Diseases Hospital, Carlisle.

Only one case of Poliomyelitis was notified. Bills were printed showing the public how the disease is spread, the symptoms, signs and means of prevention.

Towards the end of the year, other contacts of Typhoid and Smallpox were visited, again without any outbreaks in this district.

The estimated mid-year population for 1949, given by the Registrar-General, is 16,870, this shows an increase of 560 on the estimated population for 1948.

Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rate compared with last year is as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Popula- tion.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Crude Death. Rate.</i>	<i>Standard- ised Death Rate.</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.</i>
1948 .....	16,310	18.2	11.5	.....	50.5
1949 .....	16,870	18.4	13.4	13.9	32.0

A clean food campaign was launched after mid-summer. Letters explaining Diseases spread by contamination, showing methods for the prevention of Disease and asking for the co-operation of all who handle food, together with copies of the basic code of practice for Food Industries are being prepared, to be sent out to all the food traders in the district. Mr. Armstrong has been very active in this matter, the results of which should show fruit in the near future.

Housing and Health—Cases of overcrowding reported, especially those associated with Tuberculosis were given serious consideration by the Health Committee and certain recommendations made.

In June, this year, Dr. Andrew Forbes ceased to be Deputy Medical Officer.

It is with deep regret that I have to report that Councillor J. White died in February, and Councillor Cornthwaite passed away in October of this year. Both were very enthusiastic regarding health matters and Councillor Cornthwaite in particular, made the study of matters of health practically a hobby.

In some cases, Local Practitioners requested the help of the Health Department to get people who could not receive adequate medical treatment in their homes, into hospital. These cases were investigated and admission was affected through the local hospital management committee on the recommendation of the Regional Hospital Board.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Members of the Council at all times during the past year.

*Health Department.*  
*June 1950.*

REGINALD SMITH,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1949 is 16,870.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1949	79	41	120

The number of unemployed for last year was :—

<i>Date,.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1948	63	24	87

### VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1949.

#### Births and Deaths Rates.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS .....	160	151	311
Legitimate .....	158	147	305
Illegitimate .....	2	4	6

The BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 18·4.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS .....	4	2	6
Legitimate .....	4	2	6
Illegitimate .....			

The STILL BIRTH RATE of the estimated population is ·35.

#### Deaths and Death Rate.

During 1949, there were 227 Deaths registered as having occurred within the District, namely :—  
118 males, 109 females.

The DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 13·9.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1949.

	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Popula- tion.</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Crude Death Rate.</i>	<i>Standard- ised Death Rate.</i>
Boldon	1945	14,920	16·4	13·4	
Urban	1946	15,850	19·2	10·0	
District.	1947	16,090	22·1	12·4	
	1948	16,310	18·2	11·5	
	1949	16,870	18·4	13·4	13·9



### Comparability Factor.

The deaths of non-civilians are excluded from the figures given by the Registrar General for the year 1949, the civilian population therefore is used for the calculation of death rates and for the incidence of notifiable diseases amongst civilians.

In order to preserve continuity with years since 1940 the General Register Office is continuing to calculate local birth-rates on civilian populations, the birth rates on page 10 (except for England and Wales as a whole) have been so calculated.

Area comparability factors calculated for the purpose of securing comparability between local death-rates are also available for 1949. The Crude Death Rate for the Boldon Urban district is 13·4, when calculated with the comparability factor of 1·04 as given by the Registrar General a Standardised Death Rate is obtained, which for this area is 13·9 of the estimated population.

### Infantile Mortality.

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate .....	7	3	10
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 32·0.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1949 as compared with the preceding 4 years.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
Boldon Urban District .....	1945	40·8
	1946	49·1
	1947	70·2
	1948	50·5
	1949	32·0

### DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1949.

The causes of all the deaths in the district during 1949 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers .....	0	0	0
2. Cerebro-spinal fever .....	0	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever .....	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system .....	4	2	6
7. Other forms of tuberculosis .....	1	0	1
8. Syphilitic diseases .....	0	0	0
9. Infleunza .....	0	1	1
10. Measles .....	0	0	0
11. Ac : Poliomeylitis and Polio-Encephalitis .....	0	0	0
12. Ac : Inf.: Encephalitis .....	0	0	0
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F) .....	3	4	7
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	8	3	11
15. Cancer of breast .....	0	6	6
16. Cancer of all other sites.....	10	10	20
17. Diabetes .....	0	1	1
18. Intra-cranial vas : les :.....	10	25	35
19. Heart Diseases .....	30	30	60
20. Other diseases of circ. system	10	4	14
21. Bronchitis .....	2	1	3
22. Pneumonia .....	4	3	7
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	5	2	7
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	2	0	2
26. Appendicitis .....	1	0	1
27. Other digestive diseases.. .....	( )	0	( )
28. Nephritis .....	3	1	4
29. Puerperal & post-abortion : sepsis	0	0	0
30. Other maternal causes.....	0	0	0
31. Prem. Birth .....	2	2	4
Carried forward . . . .	96	95	191

<i>Cause of Death.</i>		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Brought forward . . . .		96	95	191
32.	Con. mal. birth inj. inf. dis.....	2	0	2
33.	Suicide .....	2	0	2
34.	Road traffic accident.....	2	0	2
35.	Other violent causes.....	6	2	8
36.	All other causes.....	10	12	22
All causes .....		118	109	227

A comparison of this table with last year shows a definite increase of Deaths under Cancer, Intra-cranial vascular lesions, Heart Disease, Violent causes and Other causes, whilst there are decreases in the deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

**BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1949.**

(Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
(a) Rates per 1,000 total population.				
(b) per 1,000 related live births.				
<b>BIRTHS—</b>				
Live .....	16.7(a)	18.7	18.0	18.5
Still .....	0.39(a)	0.47	0.40	0.37
<b>DEATHS—</b>				
All Causes .....	11.7(a)	12.5	11.6	12.2
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Whooping Cough ....	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis .....	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52
Influenza .....	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia .....	0.51	0.57	0.49	0.59
<b>NOTIFICATIONS :—Corr'd</b>				
Typhoid fever .....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever ..	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Scarlet fever .....	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46
Whooping cough ....	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70
Diphtheria .....	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07
Erysipelas .....	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17
Smallpox .....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles .....	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54
Pneumonia .....	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
Food Poisoning .....	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19
<b>DEATHS—</b>				
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
All causes under 1 year of age .....	32(b)	37	30	29
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age .....	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.			
NOTIFICATIONS :—Corr'd Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .....	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82



## MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

International List No. and Cause.	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
140. Abortion with sepsis .....	0.11	8
141. Abortion without sepsis .....	0.05	4
147. Puerperal infections .....	0.11	
142-146, 148-150 Other maternal causes.....	0.71	

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. 1949.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1949 are as follows :—

<i>For Tubercle Bacilli.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive .....	3	Positive .....	-
Negative .....	17	Negative .....	1
	20		1

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Ambulance Service, Ambulances or sitting-case cars are requisitioned for personally, from a Hospital, or by a Doctor, Nurse, Midwife or Dentist, or on production, by the patient or relative, of a medical certificate supporting the need of transport. All other enquiries, accidents, etc., are referred to Hebburn Ambulance Station, 1 St. John's Avenue, Hebburn. Telephone Hebburn 32157.

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

All information regarding the above is obtainable through the County Council who have a scheme in operation whereby the parents of children who have reached the age of eight months are sent an offer of Immunisation, together with information as to where it can be obtained and form of consent. If no record

of immunisation is received by the County Health Department before the child attains its first birthday, a reminder is sent in the shape of a birthday greeting card, which also contains information regarding immunisation. Contact is again made when the child reaches the age of four years and nine months.

In the case for vaccination, information regarding the facilities available and a form of consent is sent to the parents of children who have reached the age of three months.

#### NURSING, ETC.

As regards facilities for nursing in the home, and the provision of treatment centres and clinics, there is no change from last year.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

For some time Infectious Diseases cases have been admitted into the Deans Hospital, South Shields, however, as certain of the Hospitals are to be changed over in use for Tuberculosis treatment, arrangements are being made through Sunderland Hospital Management for cases of Infectious Disease, where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

#### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of Infectious and Notifiable Diseases notified during the year 1949, was 51; this figure excludes Tuberculosis cases and is similar to the figure notified last year, which was 50.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—1949.

Measles .....	36
Smallpox .....	.....
Scarlet Fever .....	5
Diphtheria .....	1
Enteric Fever .....	.....
Paratyphoid .....	2
Pneumonia .....	2
Puerperal Fever .....	.....

Puerperal Pyrexia .....	.....
Erysipelas .....	.....
Whooping Cough .....	3
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	1
Food Poisoning .....	1 (not confirmed).

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing has been carried out by your staff on the removal of cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and on the termination of the period of isolation if the patient has been nursed at home. Disinfections are also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis has occurred.

Visits are made to all the notified cases of the important Infectious diseases, the history of each case is taken and investigation made of the possible source of infection, the premises and infectious articles are disinfected.

During the year 27 visits were made by your Sanitary Inspector, the only major investigation was in the case of an outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever, which involved a large number of cases spread over a wide area.

In this district there were 3 confirmed cases, the third case being diagnosed after admittance into Hospital. Several visits were made and bacteriological examinations made of water supplies, milk supplies, bottled drinks, cream cakes, etc. By a process of elimination it was found that the source of the outbreak was a person in a bakery making cream cakes, who was a carrier of paratyphoid bacilli. All the cases in the district recovered.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLACTIC for immunising against Diphtheria continues to be kept in the Health Department for issuing to the local practitioners in the area. Diphtheria Antitoxin however, is only available from the Infectious Diseases Hospitals. Bottles of Disinfectant are issued on a Doctor's Note or Health Visitor's slip, as before.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquenium preceding 1949, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio-myelitis	Paratyphoid
Year.	Popu-lation.												
1944	14,650	10	17	19	13	11	....	8	2	35	11	....	....
1945	14,920	6	1	15	7	9	....	1	1	56	10	....	....
1946	15,850	6	....	4	19	10	....	1	....	9	16	....	....
1947	16,090	8	....	10	11	8	....	3	4	79	20	3	....
1948	16,310	1	....	9	11	5	....	2	....	33	5	....	....
1949	16,870	1	....	5	16	6	1	2	....	36	3	1	2

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.



CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.														Total Cases notified in each Ward.						
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	AT AGES—YEARS.													Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Whiteleas	Cleaton
	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards							
Scarlet Fever	5					2	1	2						1	4				1	1
Whooping Cough	3						1								1				1	
Diphtheria	1						1													
Measles	36	1	8	1	8	17	1						1	2	1	19	1	2	1	10
Pneumonia	2	1								1				2			1			
Acute Poliomyelitis	1																			
Acute Encephalitis																				
Dysentery																				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																				
Puerperal Pyrexia																				
Smallpox																				
Paratyphoid	2	1				1											1			
Enteric or Typhoid																				
Food Poisoning	1																			1
Erysipelas																				
Chicken Pox																				
Malaria																				
Cholera																				
Typhus Fever																				
Total	56	3	8	1	8	22	4	2		1		1	1	5	6	19	3	3	3	12

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 22 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 6 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 7 deaths occurred from Tuberculosis. 6 Pulmonary cases and 1 Non-Pulmonary case.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1949.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
0-5 .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
5-15 .....	5	..	1	1	..	..	1	..
15-25 .....	..	6	..	2	..	1	..	..
25-35 .....	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..
35-45 .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
45-55 .....	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55-65 .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals .....	10	6	2	4	4	2	1	..

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is supplied principally by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. Other premises are dependent on British Railways supply, and one house secures its supply from a shallow well.

### ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The water supply generally was satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year. One block of 8 houses had an insufficient supply and the owners and suppliers are being pressed to make improvements.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations have been made of the water from various sources with the following results :—

	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>Neg. in 100ml.</i>	<i>Pos. in 100ml</i>	<i>B.Coli. Pos. in 10ml</i>	<i>B.Coli. Pos. in 1 ml</i>
Taps .....	2	1	1	nil.	nil.
Wells .....	1	.....	1	nil.	nil.

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company's Samples were as follows :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Neg. in 100ml</i>	<i>B.Coli %</i>		<i>Pos. in 1 ml</i>
			<i>Pos. in 100ml</i>	<i>Pos. in 10ml</i>	
Wells	54	96.3	3.7	.....	.....
Reser- voirs	115	91.4	6.9	1.7	.....
Taps .....	125	89.6	8.0	2.4	.....

(iii) The water supply has no detectable plumbo solvent action.

(iv) No action was necessary in connection with the contamination of water supplies.

(v) (a) There are 4,714 Domestic Premises connected to the Sunderland and South Shields Water

Company's supply main in the Boldon Urban Council's area, and 8 premises connected to British Railways supply mains.

(b) There are no standposts connected to the Water Company's mains in the Boldon Urban District.

A typical chemical analysis and Bacteriological Examination of the water supply is given below :—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.	Parts per 100,000.
Total Solids .....	53.02
Chloride.....	5.10
Chloride expressed as Sodium Chloride ....	8.42
Total Hardness .....	44.60
Temporary Hardness .....	29.45
Permanent Hardness .....	15.15
Nitrogen as free Ammonia .....	Nil.
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	0.40
Nitrogen as Nitrites .....	Nil.
Iron .....	Nil.
Colour (Hazen degrees) .....	5
Suspended Matter .....	Nil.
Total hardness (degrees).....	31.2
Temporary Hardness (degrees) .....	20.6
Permanent Hardness (degrees) .....	10.6

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Organisms per millimetre after incubation at 37°C for 48 hrs.....	1
Bacillus Coli .....	absent in 100 mls.

#### PRIVATE STREETS.

There are quite a number of private streets within the Urban District which, particularly in winter time, are a danger to the public health of the inhabitants, and I would suggest that the Council should now consider the advisability of making up some of these private streets under the Private Streets Works Act of 1892.



**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

I have pleasure in submitting to you my first Annual Report as your Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1949.

I am pleased to report that generally the sanitary condition of your district is satisfactory.

As will be observed from the report, a great deal of time has been taken up with the inspection, and making of a permanent record of such premises as piggeries, factories, workplaces, shops, etc., this work is not yet complete, premises remaining to be dealt with are Workplaces and Offices, Schools and Stables.

The position with regard to the repair of houses is still bad. Owners who have not been allowed to increase rents since before the war are naturally reluctant to spend money on repairs which are now costing three times as much as in 1938. This in turn throws more work upon the department, as owners and agents who formerly would carry out repairs at the tenants request have now to be compelled to do so under threat of legal action by the Council.

Again under the 1949 Housing Act, a Landlord can if he wishes, apply for a grant to improve property to modern standards, but Local Authorities have no powers to compel improvement. In time, property which is structurally sound and capable of improvement will gradually deteriorate, be let to the poorest type of tenant, and then become more slum dwellings to be replaced at the expense of the community as a whole.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and the whole of the Council's staff for the encouragement and practical assistance I have received from them during the year.

Yours truly,

R. W. ARMSTRONG,  
Sanitary Inspector.

1st June, 1950.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the work of reconstructing and amending the sewerage system in the district was commenced and work appears to be progressing smoothly. The sewage of the district is discharged into the sea and into the River Tyne in an untreated state.

## POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious case of pollution has occurred during the year. Several ditches however were found to be neglected and choked, with pools of stagnant water in them. These were cleaned and regraded by the owners at the verbal request of your Officer.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A number of additions have been made to the Sanitary conveniences in the district during the year as will be shown by the following table :—

<i>Type of Closet.</i>	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Ash Closets .....	75	75	75	73	70
Water Closets	4,865	4,967	5,025	5,251	5,373
Chemical Closets	7	7	7	7	7

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is carried out by direct labour in a satisfactory manner.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS performed during the year :—

Complaints received during the year ..... 152

## HOUSING.

### UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

No. of houses inspected ..... 414  
 No. of visits made ..... 955

### UNDER HOUSING ACT.

No. of Houses inspected ..... 12  
 No. of visits made ..... 12  
 Cases of overcrowding investigated ..... 16

## DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No. of inspections .....	19
Miscellaneous visits .....	12

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated .....	13
Number of visits made .....	14
Number of houses disinfected .....	8
Lots of Bedding disinfected or destroyed .....	7

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Visits to Butchers' Shops .....	41
„ Bakehouses .....	86
„ Fishmongers.....	23
„ Greengrocers and Fruiterers .....	12
„ Ice cream premises .....	31
„ Restaurants and Cafe's .....	7
„ Grocers .....	47
„ Fried Fish Shops .....	7

## GENERAL SANITATION.

Visits in connection with :—

Water supply .....	7
Drainage .....	129
Piggeries .....	180
Tents, Vans, Sheds .....	8
Factories .....	72
Workplaces and Offices .....	34
Theatres, Public Halls and Public Houses .....	18
Shops .....	356
Rats and Mice .....	22
Squatter's Camps .....	81

## FATORIES ACT, 1937.

A completely new record of the Factory Premises in the district has been compiled, which required the inspection of all the Factories and Workplaces.

The Register was revised and a copy of the up-to-date record sent to the Area Factory Inspector.

The tables below are in the form required by the Minister of Labour and National Service.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>In- pections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities .....	7	8	.....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.....	31	62	.....	.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .....	2	2	.....	.....
Total (excluding out-workers' premises).	40	72	.....	.....

( 2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. by H.M. Inspector Inspector</i>		<i>Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted</i>
Want of Cleanliness .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) insufficient .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) unsuitable or defective .....	2	2	.....	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for the sexes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	3	2	.....	.....	.....



## SQUATTER'S CAMPS.

There are three ex-army camps in the district which are now occupied by families. The huts which were altered and improved in 1946 for this purpose are now generally in a very poor condition and are a considerable expense; certainly they are a heavy liability to the Authorities and do not encourage their occupants to keep their homes in the condition one expects to see.

## PIGGERIES.

During the year all the known piggeries in the district amounting to 104 were visited and inspected. Many of these consist of wooden erections or buildings of wood, corrugated iron and similar scrap material. Unfortunately, Local Authorities have no power to prohibit the erection of these unsightly and insanitary structures. Defence Regulation 62b permits anyone to keep pigs anywhere and unless it can be proved that a nuisance is being caused no action of any kind can be taken.

Proceedings were instituted by the Local Authority against one of these persons who is keeping about 300 pigs in the grounds of a large mansion in the centre of a high class residential area. The foul smells coming from this place was the cause of constant complaints from neighbouring residents. The Council having requested the owner on numerous occasions to keep his animals in a clean condition, and to prevent a nuisance arising came to the conclusion that only in one way could the matter be remedied permanently. To serve a notice prohibiting the keeping of pigs on the premises at all. The case is still proceeding.

It is my opinion, that Defence Regulation 62b, should be repealed, and pigs should only be kept in premises erected with the approval of and to a standard set by the Local Authority.

I submit also that piggeries should not be less than 100 yards from any dwelling house, workplace, factory, shop, or public road, and the Model Byelaws should be amended accordingly.

## HOUSING.

(1)	(a) Total Number of Houses Inspected for defects, under the Housing Acts.....	12
	(b) Number of Inspections made for this purpose .....	12
(2)	(a) Number of Houses inspected for nuisances, under the Public Health Acts .....	414
	(b) Number of inspections made for this purpose .....	416
(3)	Numbers of dwelling houses found unfit for human habitation .....	3
(4)	Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	33
(5)	Houses in which defects were remedied by informal action of Local Authorities Officer .....	13
(6)	Houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices.....	20

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No Statutory action has been necessary in connection with smoke abatement during the year. Several firms however, in the area were approached about the emission of smoke from their works, but as they were taking all practicable steps to prevent smoke emission no legal action could be taken.

The principal difficulty seems to be the variation in the quality of fuel and overloaded boilers.

No complaints were received of smoke emission from colliery spoil heaps.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

## RODENT CONTROL.

22 Complaints of infestation by rodents were received during the year, of these, eight were found to be positive, and the occupiers of the premises were advised as to

methods of destruction. Only in one case was it necessary to carry out a full scale treatment. This was performed, under the supervision of this department, in an old quarry. The treatment was highly successful, subsequent test points had a negative result.

A total of 68 visits were made in connection with this subject.

#### SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the district is satisfactory. The water being supplied by the South Shields and Sunderland Water Co. It has not been necessary to take any action during the year in respect of infectious diseases amongst school children.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.—MILK SUPPLY.

The supervision of the clean production of milk for human consumption ceased to be the responsibility of Local Authorities from 1st October, 1949. Up to this date, 141 inspections of Dairies were made and 137 inspections of Cowsheds.

On October 1st, there were 7 farms in the area producing "TT" Milk, 13 producing "Accredited" Milk, and 20 producing Ungraded Milk. 40 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

Methylene Blue Test	Satisfactory	.....	24
	Unsatisfactory	.....	16
Bacillus Coli Test	Satisfactory	.....	28
	Unsatisfactory	.....	12

#### INSPECTION OF FOOD PREPARING PLACES.

##### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. SECTIONS 13 AND 14.

All premises under this heading have been inspected during the year, and conditions generally are good.

The lack of a definite statement in the Act that hot water supply should be on tap, means in effect that some traders are inclined to treat this matter with contempt. Similarly, Local Authorities should be given powers to refuse the registration of premises for the sale of Ice Cream or Preserved foods where the principal business is something entirely different, i.e. greengrocers and ironmongers selling Ice Cream.



### ICE CREAM.

There are 4 premises registered for the Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream, and 12 premises for the Sale of Ice Cream.

Two samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. Both satisfied the tests and were placed in Grade 1.

### BAKERIES.

There are 6 bakeries in the district ; all of these have been inspected from time to time. The conditions generally are good. One bakery which was in a poor condition has been voluntarily closed by the occupier.

### FISH PRESERVATION.

There are 8 Fish and Chip Shops in the district, all of which have been inspected.

### MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption takes place in this district at present. Slaughtering for the area is carried out at the Government controlled slaughterhouses in South Shields ; from whence the meat is allocated and distributed to the butchers.

Frozen and chilled meats which are sent to the butchers have on many occasions been covered with dirty, soiled wrappers, and the meat itself is not infrequently contaminated with a layer of dirt on the outside. The meat also, owing to long periods of storage, has lost that appearance which one expects to find in good quality carcasses. As a result of all this, it is very difficult for Sanitary Inspectors to encourage butchers to support clean food campaigns.

Licences have been granted to a number of pig-keepers to slaughter animals for their own consumption. Every endeavour is made to inspect as many of these carcasses as possible.

### BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

There are 12 Butchers' shops in this district, all of which have been inspected on various occasions during the year. Conditions generally are good, but those



traders whose premises are not completely satisfactory are being requested to take steps to improve them.

Inspections were also made of vans and lorries distributing meat.

#### FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

The following food-stuffs were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

15 tins of Mussels.	6 tins of Tomatoes.
2 tins of Vegetable soup.	18 tins of Peas.
4 tins of Beans.	72 tins of Evaporated Milk.
8 tins of Pork Brawn.	3 tins of Jam.
1 tin of Carrots.	1 tin of Tomato Soup.
3 tins of Minced Beef Loaf.	5 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat.
2 tins of Pate-de-foie.	1 tin of Apricots.
4 tins of Grapefruit.	2 tins of Scotch Broth.
1 tin of Fish Balls.	2 tins of Mixed Fruits.
4 tins of Grapes.	1 tin of Sardines.
1 tin of Shrimp Paste.	5 tins of Veal Loaf.
2 tin of Peaches.	1 tin of Soup.
1 tin of Whalemeat.	2 Btls. of Tomato Ketchup
6 jars of pickles.	1 blt. of Vinegar.
30 lbs. of Macaroni.	220 lbs. of Figs.
10 lbs. of Butter.	280 lbs. of Currants.
69 lbs. of Bacon.	312 lbs. of Beef.
41 lbs. of Mutton.	

#### Adulteration of Food.

The Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of these sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and they take samples for analysis.

**Shops Act, 1934. Section 10.**

A register has been formulated of the Shops in the area of which there are 137. During the year, 356 visits were made in connection with the inspection of shops. A summary of defects found is set out below :—

<i>Defect.</i>	<i>Number Found.</i>	<i>Number Remedied.</i>
Insufficient Ventilation .....	5	2
Unsatisfactory Heating arrangements .....	Nil.	Nil.
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation .....	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation not separate for the sexes	1	In progress.
Sanitary Accommodation— Dirty .....	3	3
Defective .....	1	1

The types of business carried on are as follows :—

Cafe's, etc. ....	3
Sweets and Ice Cream .....	8
Drapery, Clothier, etc. ....	10
Grocery .....	34
Newsagents, Tobacco, etc. ....	3
Greengrocery .....	12
Fishmongers .....	3
Fish and Chip Fryers .....	7
Bootmaker and Repairs .....	6
Butchers .....	12
Chemists .....	4
Bakers and Confectioners .....	8
General Dealers .....	13
Ironmongers .....	3
Hairdressers .....	6
Fireplace Merchants .....	2
China and Glass Merchants .....	1
Electrical Goods .....	1
Cycle Dealers .....	1



HEALTH

A 21 SEP 50

C.R. 31